

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2008

U.S. mine and plant production data for selected mineral commodities are provided monthly (or quarterly) by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System (FRS), for use in preparing its index of industrial production and the related capacity indexes and capacity utilization rates. These indexes are measures of activity in manufacturing, mining, and electric and gas utilities, and they are among the key economic indicators monitored by the FRS in determining monetary policy. The data in this report include current and prior months data provided to the FRS,

some of which has been revised.

Sizable increases in the production of cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone in the second quarter compared with that of the first quarter are mostly due to increased construction activity after the winter months.

Sizable year-to-date declines in domestic production for construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and gypsum) from the comparable period in 2007 can be attributed to the declines in the domestic housing market (table 1).

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, second quarter 2008 vs. first quarter 2008	Percentage change, YTD, second quarter 2008, vs. YTD, second quarter 2007
Aluminum (secondary)	3	-7
Cement	40	-6
Gypsum	-	-14
Iron ore	8	7
Phosphate rock	-4	4
Sand and gravel, construction	87	-11
Soda ash	-	2
Stone, crushed	68	-9
Zinc	6	15

YTD Year to date. - Zero.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES, BY QUARTER^{1,2}

Mineral commodity	2007					2008		Year to date	
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total	First quarter	Second quarter	2007	2008
Aluminum ³ thousand metric tons	243.0	233.0	231.0	217.0	924.0	219.0 ^r	225.0 ^e	477.0	445.0 ^e
Cement ⁴ million metric tons	18.0	25.6	26.3	22.3 ^r	92.3 ^r	17.1 ^r	24.0 ^e	43.7	41.1 ^e
Gypsum ⁵ do.	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.0	21.4	4.7	4.7 ^e	10.9	9.4 ^e
Iron ore ⁶ do.	11.4	13.7	13.5	13.4 ^r	52.0 ^r	12.9	13.9 ^e	25.1	26.8 ^e
Phosphate rock ⁷ do.	7.1	7.7	7.4	7.7	29.9	7.8 ^r	7.5 ^e	14.7	15.3 ^e
Sand and gravel, construction ^{8,9} do.	202.0 ^r	331.0 ^r	354.0 ^r	273.0 ^r	1,170.0 ^r	166.0 ^r	311.0 ^e	533.0	477.0 ^e
Soda ash ⁶ do.	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	11.1	2.8	2.8	5.5	5.6
Stone, crushed ^{8,9} do.	287.0 ^r	443.0 ^r	476.0 ^r	375.0 ^r	1,590.0 ^r	248.0 ^r	416.0 ^e	730.0	664.0 ^e
Zinc ¹⁰ thousand metric tons	181.0	184.0 ^r	208.0 ^r	195.0 ^r	768.0 ^r	204.0 ^r	216.0 ^e	365.0	420.0 ^e

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Based on data available as of August 12.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States.

⁴Portland and blended cement shipments.

⁵Calcined production.

⁶Mine production.

⁷Marketable mine production.

⁸Sold or used.

⁹Excludes Alaska and Hawaii; included in 2007 year total.

¹⁰Recoverable mine production.